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1. AFGHANS REPORTEDLY SENDING ARMS TO TRIBES ON PAKISTANI FRONTIER

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Nine thousand rifles and an unknown number of grenades--believed to be part of a November 1955 Soviet bloc arms shipment--have been sent to the

Pushtoon tribal area along the Pakistani border,

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Additional arms are to be sent to the Pushtoons soon, and Kabul expects another shipment from the USSR.

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Comment

Afghanistan had received Soviet bloc arms in November 1955, but the deliveries have never been confirmed. If Kabul is sending such quantities of arms to the Pushtoon area, border raids are likely. Favorable weather conditions for such action will prevail during the next few months.

Top Pakistani officials have recently stressed that they expect Afghan prime minister Daud's government to use Soviet arms against Pakistan within a year. They also believe that Governor General Mirza's visit to Kabul--now proposed for May--is unlikely to settle issues between the two countries.

The Pakistani warnings may be an attempt to justify in advance raids by Pakistani-controlled Pushtoons. (Concurred in by ORR)

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2. USSR REPORTEDLY MAKES OVERTURE TO IRAQ

25X1A Comment on:

[REDACTED] The Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade has informed Iraq that it considers still valid the Soviet-Iraqi contract of

1954 to barter 4,000 tons of Iraqi dates for Soviet goods and is willing to accept delivery of the remaining 2,000 tons of dates from Iraq, according to press reports from Baghdad. Iraq suspended relations with the USSR in January 1955, and the USSR subsequently canceled the remainder of the contract.

Moscow's reversal of its former position appears to be the first move in a Soviet attempt to re-establish relations with Iraq in the hope of eventually weakening its ties with the West. Iraq might now be susceptible to Soviet overtures, since it is disturbed over its isolation from the other Arab states and is jealous of Egypt's ascendancy in the Arab League.

The USSR has recently made overtures to three other members of the Baghdad pact [REDACTED] (Concurred in by ORR)

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